



# Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan Implementation Update – Fall 2022



## Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan

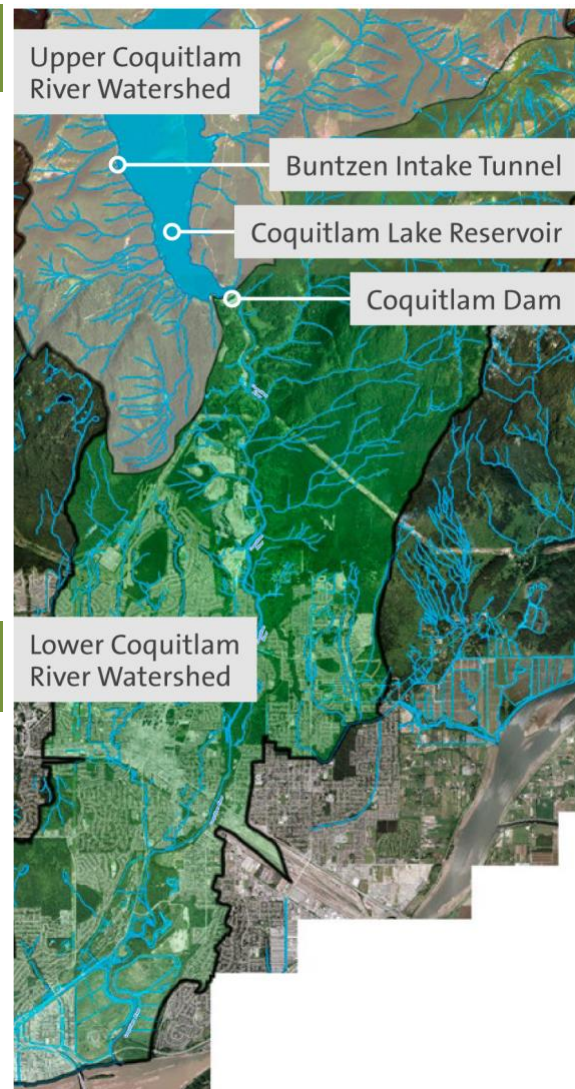
The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable is a collaborative body that coordinates and implements activities that promote the long-term sustainability of the watershed. Between 2012 and 2015, the Roundtable created the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan (LCRWP), which resulted from the efforts of more than 60 partners from municipal, provincial, regional, federal and First Nations governments,

industrial, arts and culture, education, community, real estate development sectors and stewardship groups. The LCRWP responds to key pressures that affect watershed health and provides some initial strategies to address them. Implementing the LCRWP requires the commitment of key partners to support the plan's strategies for action, which aim to provide a healthy watershed for humans and non-humans alike.

## Strategies for Action – Progress Update

This update highlights progress-to-date on the 17 strategies provided in the LCRWP. Since our 2021 issue, marked progress was achieved in addressing pressures from stormwater, illegal activity, development, and mainstream cultural norms. Work with industry and community sector partners, arts and business organizations, government,

post-secondary institutions, stewardship groups resulted in positive engagement outcomes that will lead to improved watershed health. Thanks to support from our partners, the Roundtable has developed strategies to continue to implement its Watershed Plan as we safely open through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable was founded in 2011 following a four-year community engagement process. The Roundtable coordinates and implements activities that promote the health and long-term sustainability of the watershed.



# WHAT PRESSURES ARE AFFECTING THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT?

## Development (High)



## Invasive Species (High)



## Stormwater (High)



### Which components of the watershed do these pressures affect?

Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Liveable Communities and Recreation

Riparian Areas, Recreation and possibly Coquitlam River System and Salmon

Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Salmon, Cultural and Spiritual Values, Human Health and Safety and Resource Industries

### Strategies for Action

**Development Incentives Study:** to explore options with the development community, Kwikwetlem First Nation, environmental and legislative experts, and devise strategies that may address development pressures in the watershed.

**Natural Space Strategy:** to assess the current open space system to identify areas of high importance that provide multi-benefits for future development areas based on ecological, social, and economic values.

**Develop an Impact Map:** to show the watershed-wide environmental activities, natural areas, and human impacts to inform decision-makers and the community about ways to address pressures from development on lower Coquitlam River watershed health.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** Successful workshops and learning events discussed potential development incentives, natural assets as a component of infrastructure, including First Nations engagement in land-use reviews; two research papers on proposed environmental policies for land-use development and a Natural Space Strategy were completed by external groups. A Coquitlam River watershed map was produced for outreach discussion. In 2020, the Development Committee released an interactive Watershed Atlas and Project Catalogue, which provides geospatial information on the watershed; and, during spring/summer 2022 a research study on barriers to Low Impact Development in partnership with the Centre for Law and the Environment, UBC was initiated.

### Strategies for Action

**Alignment of Invasive Species Management Efforts:** to address Metro Vancouver Invasive Species Management Strategy (Goal 3-L). Compile watershed-wide data and apply across municipalities.

**Implement Ban on Sale of Invasive Species:** to address Metro Vancouver Invasive Species Strategy (Goal 3-L and 3-M). Initial effort would target development of an educational awareness campaign for watershed residents to learn about the impacts invasive species can have on watershed health and how to help manage them.

**Implementation Status: ONGOING.** Since 2016 through Fall 2019, the Roundtable has accessed funding support from financial business and community organizations, municipal, federal, and regional governments to develop a comprehensive outreach program to educate the community on the impact of invasive species and watershed health, with the aim to achieve a measurable change in human behaviour. Through coordinated events held in the cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Metro Vancouver, outreach and education materials highlight the impacts invasive species and water quality, quantity and overuse have on watershed health. Through 2020 to present, the Roundtable continues to align with the two municipalities to advance messaging with the aim to achieve Metro Vancouver Management Strategy goals to ban the sale of invasive species. During summer 2022, a video series was developed to raise awareness on the impact of invasives on fish and wildlife in the lower watershed. The project was supported through a Canada Summer Jobs Program.

### Strategies for Action

**Stormwater Homeowner Outreach:** to help single-family homeowners improve stormwater practices in the lower watershed. Development of this strategy also aligns with the implementation of a **water conservation outreach program** strategy.

**Promote Adaptive Stormwater Management Process:** to achieve stormwater improvements at a watershed-wide scale.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** In the Summer of 2020, the Stormwater Committee began drafting recommendations for a watershed-wide adaptive stormwater management plan. In Spring 2021 the committee brought all governments in the watershed together to discuss their respective stormwater management plans and align adaptive monitoring programs. The committee has also begun implementing an outreach campaign to single family homeowners by installing a demonstration rain garden in Lions Park, Port Coquitlam. Completed during fall 2021, the garden features two rain barrels for rainwater harvesting. Interpretive signage to explain how rain gardens work and can be constructed is being produced and a maintenance plan for care and watering has been prepared for the site year-round.



# WHAT PRESSURES ARE AFFECTING THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT?

## Water Extraction (Medium)



## Recreation (Medium)



## Vandalism / Illegal Activity (Medium)



### Which components of the watershed do these pressures affect?

Coquitlam River System, Salmon, Human Health and Safety, Resource Industries, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation.

Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Salmon, Resource Industries and Recreation.

Coquitlam River System, Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Stewardship, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation.

### Strategies for Action

**Develop a Set of Recommendations for Next Revision of Water Use Plan (WUP):** to determine whether local-area water conservation efforts can offset water needs beyond WUP requirements to improve flows needed for salmon.

**Implement Water Conservation Outreach Program:** that focuses on the environmental flow benefits. Connect water extraction and reduced water consumption of water to stream and salmon health. This strategy also aligns with **stormwater homeowner outreach** strategy.

**Promote “high” standards of water practices for new development, including supporting research:** to show the benefits of reducing water demands and preserving water quality of new development in the watershed. This strategy links to both Stormwater and Development actions and may be captured as part of an alignment to address those pressures.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** The plan to form a Water Extraction Committee was put on hold in 2018 due to a research extension of BC Hydro’s Water Use Plan. An external review of water extraction issues in the watershed proceeded and was released in early 2021. The report provided recommendations that could improve flows for both environmental and cultural benefits. A small component of a water conservation outreach was initiated in conjunction with the Invasive Species outreach program, which included the production of a tabletop panel display on water use in 2019.

### Strategies for Action

**“No Impact” Campaign in Schools:** to provide a school program where kids have access to learn to recreate without an environmental impact. Additional work and implementer support is required to advance the action plan.

**Coquitlam River Mainstem Outreach Campaign:** to prevent unsustainable recreation on the river corridor mainstem that harms riparian areas, wildlife and aquatic habitat, native plants, and species at risk. This idea will be considered as capacity grows and resources become available.

**Implementation Status: PARTIAL.** During Fall 2019 the Roundtable implemented a new branch of their outreach campaign that solicited input from community secondary students on pressures that stem from recreational activities. The data received will be considered in planning future recreation campaigns.



### Strategies for Action

**Littering / Dumping Public Outreach Campaign:** to educate residents on cumulative damage of littering / dumping on a watershed-wide scale.

**Outreach Program:** to provide awareness and understanding about existing tree management and clearing bylaws in the municipalities. This idea will be further developed as capacity grows and resources become available.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** Since 2019 to date this fall 2022, the Roundtable remains active in leading various shoreline river clean-ups. The events sparked a new “changing behaviours” public outreach campaign in 2021 that educated newcomers to the watershed, empowered people who are homeless to participate in a clean-up program and encouraged community awareness that led artists to create an “mutant fish art installation” art piece from the litter collected. Multiple partners have come together on Rivers Day 2019, 2021 and 2022 to conduct both an in-stream and streamside clean-ups along Coquitlam River trails in Port Coquitlam. Extensive quantities of litter have been removed from the Coquitlam River by Roundtable members and our partners.





# Implementation Partners for Watershed Plan Strategies for Action

The Roundtable gratefully acknowledges the support provided by its partners for the implementation of several strategies for action and operational support for 2022.

- **ArtsConnect** (Mainstream Cultural Norms)
- **City of Coquitlam** (Development, Capacity Building, Stormwater)
- **City of Port Coquitlam** (Development, Stormwater, Capacity Building)
- **Centre for Law and the Environment, UBC** (Development)
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada & Government Canada** (Mainstream Cultural Norms, Illegal Activity)
- **Jack Cewe Construction Ltd.** (Stormwater, Capacity Building)
- **Kwikwetlem First Nation** (Development, Stormwater, Capacity Building)
- **Metro Vancouver** (Capacity Building)
- **Morguard Corporation** (Development)
- **WestStone Group** (Development)
- **Tri-City Green Council** (Stormwater)
- **Vancity** (Stormwater Management)
- **Watershed Watch Salmon Society** (Financial Trustee, Capacity Building)

Roundtable partners and volunteers gave in-kind contributions valued at \$19,566, including 707 hours of time and \$700 of venue and skilled trades donations in 2021.

A first assessment review of the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan (2015) was initiated during the summer 2022. An update will be released in early 2023 following review and input from the Watershed Plan Assessment Committee.

## Mainstream Cultural Norms (Medium)

## Mining (Low)



Human Health and Safety, Stewardship, Resource Industries, Cultural and Spiritual Values and Recreation

Coquitlam River System, Salmon and Liveable Communities

### Strategies for Action

### Strategies for Action

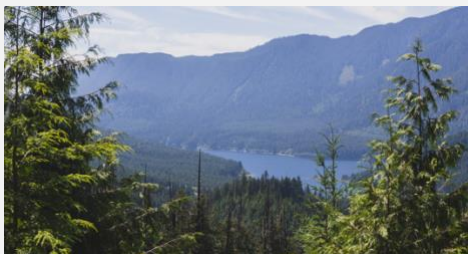
**Outreach Work:** with linkages to **Natural Space Strategy** (Development) and **Coquitlam River Mainstem Campaign** (Recreation) to make outdoor access easier. This concept requires further research and interest from partners.

**Conduct Outreach Between Stewardship Groups and Mining Community:** to share information about current mining operations to provide better transparency on mining operations in the watershed.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** During Fall 2019 the Roundtable solicited input from secondary students on pressures that stem from mainstream cultural norms. The data received will be considered in planning future outreach campaigns. In Summer 2020, a virtual watershed tour was produced to encourage people to visit and get involved in projects around the watershed. Thanks to funds from the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2021, a videographer was hired to film a “Hidden Gems” series, which highlighted some of the lesser-known areas of the watershed and encouraged people to visit and get involved. All videos are available on the Roundtable’s website, social media pages and Telus Community Content TV.

**Outreach on Current State of Mining Practices:** to inform the community what mining operations are doing to protect the river.

**Implementation Status: ACTIVE/ONGOING.** The Roundtable includes aggregate industry sector representation and provides a forum for mine operations to provide information about the industry. Aggregate representatives regularly attend meetings and provide updates. During 2019, Lehigh Hanson Materials Ltd. participated in a watershed tour to provide information about their mining operations and the current state of mining practices at their site. The Lehigh Hanson Aggregate site was also featured in a filmed virtual watershed tour in 2020. Jack Cewe Construction also provided aggregate in-kind for the Roundtable’s rain garden project during 2021 and assisted in the art installation clean up during fall 2022.



For more information about Roundtable visit: [coquitlamriverwatershed.ca](http://coquitlamriverwatershed.ca)  
E-mail: [coordinator@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca](mailto:coordinator@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca)

Check us out on our socials:

